

WOMAN TEACHES "MOONSHINERS" THEIR A B C'S

Rowan county is a little mountainous section in eastern Kentucky, for years much given to shoots and booze; where most of the leading citizens distilled illegal corn juice for a living and shot federal sleuths and feudal enemies for recreation.

Some of the "poor whites" in the mountains had heard of such a thing as the alphabet, but most of 'em couldn't have spelled C-A-T for a million dollars.

Some years ago Mrs. Cora Wilson Stewart was given charge of educational matters in Rowan county. A little trip through the mountains convinced the new superintendent that liberal doses of the A B C's would do more toward taking shoots and booze out of the county than all the officers combined and at the same time place boots and shoes on the feet of the little children who came to her school.

She started her moonlight school. At first she had to go out in the woods and drag the men and women to school, which she held at night when the children were not using the building and when the parents were not working.

One of her early pupils was a grandmother, 86 years old. The old woman had never been to school a day before.

Soon the moonlight school began to draw men away from the moonshine distillery product and other schools were started in Rowan county, for Mrs. Stewart had persuaded other teachers to

open their school houses at night. Now there are several counties in eastern Kentucky teaching grown men and women in moonlight schools.

Big, rough, gun-toting mountaineers now start to school when their children are being put to bed and bend over the first reader and spelling book with a painful effort.

These men who a few years ago were noted for their utter lack of regard for human life if that life happened to be on the other side of the feud, are now studying side by side with their one-time bitterest enemies, each hoping to outstrip the other in readin', 'ritin', 'n' rithmetic.

The little woman who has transformed Rowan county is a mere child, physically, when compared to her moonlight pupils, and although she is 35, she is younger than her pupils.

Mrs. Stewart is one of the most prominent of Blue Grass women. Her ancestry includes some of the most famous of Kentucky families. She has "blue blood" and money, but she is far prouder of her moonlight schools in the moonshine mountains, she says.

A Hint.

Mistress—That was a very nice letter of Patrick's offering you marriage, Mary. What shall I say in reply for you?

Mary—Tell him, mum, if you plaze, that when I get my wages raised next month, mum, I'll begin to save for the weddin' things.